

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A lottery terminal apparatus, comprising:
a lottery input unit ~~for receiving alphabetical game play information~~ configured to receive a play phrase from a user that comprises a plurality of words;
~~a display unit for visually displaying said received alphabetical game play information;~~
a value input device;
a controller operatively coupled to ~~said display unit and~~ said value input device, said controller comprising a processor and a memory operatively coupled to said processor,
said controller being programmed to receive wager data in response to a wager made by a person,
said controller being programmed to assign a prize value to the received ~~alphabetical game play information~~ play phrase,
said controller being programmed to randomly ~~select~~ generate an alphabetic sample comprising a random string of letters, and determine a correlation between said alphabetic sample and said ~~alphanumeric game play information~~ play phrase, and
said controller being programmed to determine a payout value based on the correlation between said alphabetic sample and said ~~alphanumeric game play information~~ play phrase and said prize value.

2. Cancelled

3. (Currently Amended) The lottery terminal apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said lottery input unit comprises a lottery play slip reader for importing said ~~alphabetical game play information~~ play phrase coded onto a lottery play slip.

4. (Currently Amended) The lottery terminal apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said lottery input unit comprises a touch-screen device for receiving said ~~alphabetical~~

~~game play information~~ play phrase as inputted by a user.

5. (Original) The lottery terminal apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said value input device is a card reader for accepting value information encoded onto a readable medium.

6. (Original) The lottery terminal apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said value input device is communicatively connected to a value acceptor and configured to accept value information communicated from said value acceptor.

7. (Currently Amended) The lottery terminal apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said memory stores a probability distribution indicative of the frequency at which each ~~alphabetic character~~ letter in said play phrase occurs to assign a prize value to said play phrase.

8. (Currently Amended) The lottery terminal apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said ~~probability distribution~~ alphabetic sample includes a wildcard that may be substituted for any one of the ~~alphabetic characters~~ letters in said play phrase.

9. (Original) A lottery game system comprising a plurality of lottery terminal apparatuses as defined in claim 1, said lottery terminal apparatuses being interconnected to form a network of lottery terminal apparatuses.

10. **Cancelled**

11. **Cancelled**

12. **Cancelled**

13. **Cancelled**

14. **Cancelled**

15. **Cancelled**

16. **Cancelled**

17. **Cancelled**

18. **Cancelled**

19. **Cancelled**

20. **Cancelled**

21. (Currently Amended) A method of playing a word-based lottery game comprising:
storing an alphabetic play phrase having a plurality of words defined by a plurality of characters;
assigning a prize value to each of the words in the play phrase;
~~randomly selecting at least one alphabetic indicia from a plurality of similar alphabetic indicia~~ generating a alphabetic sample comprising a random string of letters;
matching the letters in the alphabetic sample ~~at least one alphabetic indicia~~ to the plurality of characters defining said words in the play phrase; and
determining a win status based on the number of ~~matching alphabetic indicia and the plurality of characters~~ matched words in the play phrase.

22. **Cancelled**

23. (Currently Amended) The method of playing a word-based lottery game of claim 21 further comprising defining a price point at which the word based lottery game is to be played and basing an award prize as a function of the price point.

24. Cancelled

25. (Original) The method of playing a word-based lottery game of claim 21 further comprising defining a sample size of the number of alphabetic indicia to be drawn during a round of word based lottery game play.

26. (Original) The method of playing a word based lottery game 21, wherein storing the alphabetic play phrase further comprises storing a predefined list of play phrases.

27. (Original) The method of playing a word-based lottery game of claim 21 wherein storing the alphabetic play phrase further comprises storing a custom play phrase before beginning a round of word based lottery game play.

28. (Original) The method of playing a word-based lottery game of claim 21, wherein storing the alphabetic play phrase further comprises storing a predefined play phrase represented on a preprinted game card.